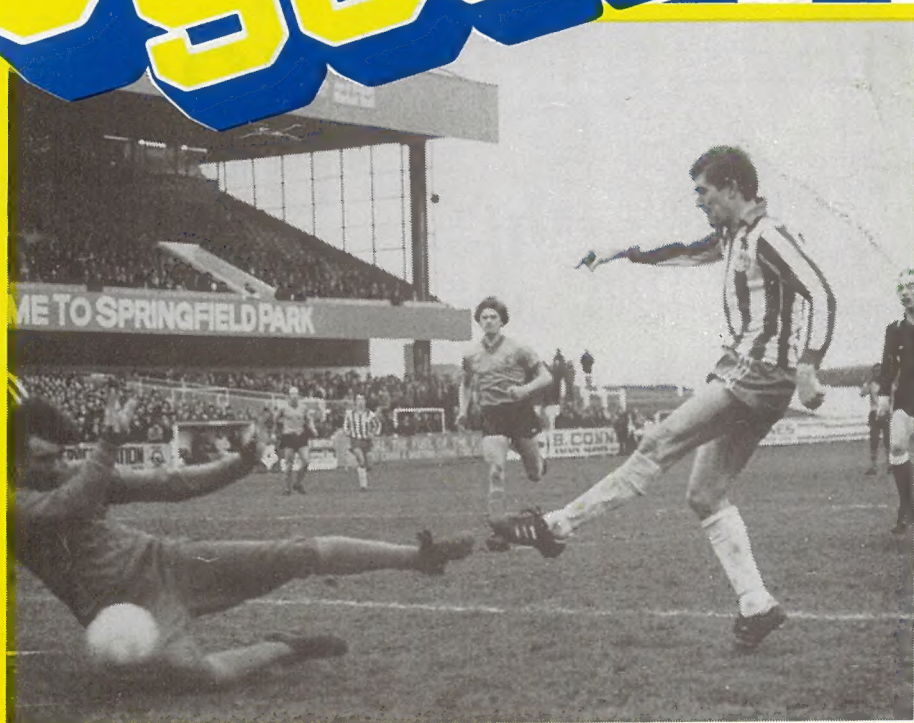


25p

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF WIGAN ATHLETIC

SPRINGFIELD SCENE



Saturday, 7th March, 1981 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

WIGAN ATHLETIC -v- ROCHDALE

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Rev. D. Hall**



MY POINT OF VIEW

GOOD AFTERNOON

May I begin my first set of notes by recording how delighted I am to have

accepted the position of Player Manager to the Wigan Athletic Football Club.

I have already heard from several sources how impatient the Board of Directors and the supporters are to have success, and I can assure you I intend to bring success to Springfield Park. The players and myself will need your backing if we are to make progress, but it may take a little time to fit all the pieces of the jigsaw together. I intend to carry out a thorough inspection over the last few weeks of the season before sitting down to plan next

season's campaign.

I would like to thank Fred Eyre for all the help he has already given me. He has done a great job and I hope we can continue to work together in the future in the same friendly and productive way we have done over the past few days.

I hope we can get off to a good start today against Rochdale.

Best Wishes,

Front Page Photo — Jeff Wright rifles home Wigan Athletic's second goal against Mansfield Town. (photo by courtesy of David Cookson).

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GREAT NAMES FROM THE PAST

BY HAROLD ASHURST

STAYING with the successful Allan Brown team of the 1960's brings us to one of the best, and certainly one of the most popular, centre halves ever to put on the Wigan Athletic shirt — Alf Craig.

A powerfully built man, Alf Craig was signed from Blackpool, where he had enjoyed a very successful playing career and that success was to continue at Springfield Park. Alf soon became a big favourite with the Latics fans, who admired his no-nonsense style and his authority on the field. He was noted for his fearsome tackling and his heading ability was second to none. This solidly built and robust player was to make a major contribution to

the success of Allan Brown's well disciplined and organised team.

There is always one incident which stands out when the name of Alf Craig is mentioned amongst supporters, and that, of course, was the famous "no goal" incident against Tranmere Rovers in 1966. The setting was a first round F.A. Cup replay at Springfield Park, played in a blinding snow-storm. Latics had made an excellent draw at Prenton Park on the previous Saturday and a huge crowd was present to see the replay. The League side were winning by the only goal of the game, when, in the dying seconds, Alf fired in a terrific shot that almost broke the back of the Tranmere net. Wigan Athletic fans went wild; some thinking Latics had equalised; but others because the referee had disallowed the goal, claiming he had blown for full-time before the ball had entered the net. A cruel story was passed around after the match that the referee had a 10 o'clock train to catch and did not want to miss it by playing extra time! True or not, Alf Craig has earned a special mention in Wigan Athletic's history by the referee's decision on that occasion.

Alf eventually took over from Allan Brown as player manager, but did not particularly enjoy the role, and left to join Netherfield, as a player, the following season. He joined up with a number of ex-Latics players, and the Kendal side not only enjoyed a successful run, but gained great satisfaction by defeating Wigan Athletic.

Alf Craig is a regular visitor at Springfield Park for Football League fixtures, and now lives at Hindley. Of course, his footballing days are over, but his powerful physique is still put to good use in his job as a Prison Officer at a local Borstal.

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by Fred Eyre

TUESDAY night's game at Wrexham marked the long awaited return to action of Frank Corrigan.

In his first competitive game since his ankle operation he came through it very well and should soon be challenging again for a first team place.

George Urquhart who has also had a troublesome ankle also played and felt no adverse reaction in an experienced

midfield role alongside Frank Corrigan and David McMullan.

I feel that we have lacked a bit of cover in the fullback positions, and with this in mind, have decided to give Lawrence Tierney a run at right back. He possesses many natural qualities, is a good passer of the ball, reads the game well, and, I feel, he could have a better opportunity to break into the first team in this position, rather than his customary midfield role, in view of the number of players competing in that area.

The remaining reserve fixtures have now taken on a new importance, because after a change in management, it sometimes means a fresh opportunity for any player who may not have figured in the previous manager's plans.

I have no doubts that Larry Lloyd will be having a close look at all the reserve team players between now and the end of the season, and hopefully, he will be pleased with what he sees.

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I WOULD like to place on record, and bring to the public's attention, the magnificent job being done by those members of my staff responsible for the day to day operation of our lottery activities. All too often their valuable contribution is taken for granted, and this should not be the case. In recent weeks, we have not only introduced two new tickets — the Astra and the Bingo — but have also converted agencies from the Springfield Rose operation, increased the frequency at which lotteries are held, and put into action the re-cycling procedures which help us to avoid much of the wastage of resources that can occur when tickets lie dormant and unsold. Carol, Christine, Deirdre and Terry out on the road, and Bill and Helen in the office, have taken all the aggravation in their stride, and their dedication to their task has been an example for all in the club to follow. The Wigan Athletic Football Club is also very fortunate to have quality agents who themselves have responded magnificently to the challenge of the new opportunities offered. The results of the combined efforts are shown in the increased revenue being fed into the very hungry mouth of the Football Club. It is a great pity that we could not have made our changes in the pre-Christmas months, when our fund-raising activities struggled, but it gives the Commercial

Department a great deal of satisfaction to know that, at a time when the Club needs it most, it can deliver the goods. Please continue to give us your support, and, if you can possibly oblige, sign up as an agent today at our office.

We are pleased to acknowledge the sponsoring of today's game by Heatwave Thermal Insulation Specialists of Ashton-in-Makerfield who carry out industrial insulation contracts on heating and ventilating duct-work and pipe-work. Factory lining and insulation maintenance. Energy-saving loft insulation for the home. For quotations and estimates, telephone Ashton-in-Makerfield 716161 or 716613.

Today's match ball has been donated by James D. Philbin Limited, Henhurst Bridge, Chapel Lane, Wigan WN3 5DH, telephone no's. Wigan 46690 and 48164. This firm is the town's leading supplier of Business Machines, Office Furniture and Equipment, Electronic Calculators, Computer Peripheral Equipment, Dictating Machines, Photocopying Machines and Supplies, Commercial Stationery and Printing and Drawing Office Equipment and Sundries. Please support these local firms who have shown a great interest in our club for some little time. Enjoy today's game.

Jack Sudworth, Commercial Manager.



Letterbox

Springfield Park, Wigan. 4th March, 1981.

Dear Readers,

We recently received a very lengthy letter from our keen supporter Mr. S.J. Halliwell. Unfortunately his letter was too long for the space available, so I trust he will excuse my abbreviation of his suggestions. Hoping to hear from you soon,
Jack Sudworth, Commercial Manager.

20, Conway Road, Hindley Green, Wigan. 15th February, 1981.

Dear Sir,

I feel I must make the following points:-

1. When the reserve team are at home and the first team away in mid-week fixtures, could it not be arranged that the first team score be given from time to time over the loudspeakers?
2. Is there no way that the club could issue a photocopied team sheet for reserve team fixtures?
3. It is not time that the primitive toilet facilities on the ground were improved?
4. Could we not advertise various club activities and facilities in the spaces at present not taken up for ground advertising?
5. Could we not have the teams announced as near as possible to kick-off time, since not everyone buys a programme? It is just as important to know the visiting team and match officials as one's own team.

All best wishes to the team and the management. The majority of our supporters are behind the club 100%.

Yours faithfully,
S.J. Halliwell.

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PHOTOFILE



Photograph by courtesy of David Cookson

ABOVE:

With every Mansfield player defending the goal, Mike Quinn cannot force the ball home.

TOP RIGHT:

The strong Bury challenge puts an end to Mark Wignall's run.

BOTTOM RIGHT:

John Curtis and Alex Cribley prepare to challenge their Bury opponent.



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Photograph by courtesy of Evening Post & Chronicle



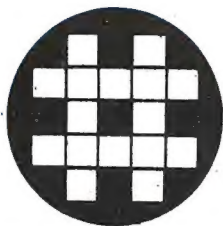
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ON THE BALL No. 22

Every answer has five letters and the first one fits into the top line, but you have to decide where the rest must go.

The most common results; Phil ---, footballer-cricketer; Danny McGrain fractured his; Part of the strip



"He's added ten yards to his throw since practising with his wife's bread puddin'..."

© MIKE TURNER CARTOONS

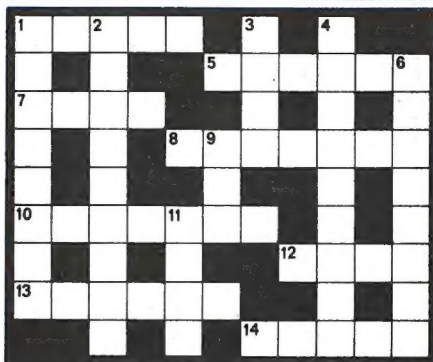
CLUB CLUB No. 22

Solve this cryptic clue to identify a soccer side:

Eric Steel wants a transfer

MIXED DOUBLES No. 22

Rearrange the letters in each of the words **MARIE** and **KEENNESS** to find the names of two foreign stars.



SOCCER NINETY-NINER

No. 22 (Compiled by David Peck)

ACROSS

1. Famous former Benfica and Portugal keeper: --- Pereira (5)
5. Despite his name, twenty-five years ago he topped York's scoring - and he's still joint seasonal scoring record holder (6)
7. Former Doncaster, Preston and Newcastle defender who has skippered Hartlepool this season (4)
8. Brothers Des and Kevin (7)
- 12 & 10. Despite his name, this former Blackburn and Spurs defender moved into management in charge of the 'wrong' national team (4, 7)
13. It's not to be missed! (6)
14. He succeeded 9nd in the national side (5)

DOWN

1. Northampton Town's nickname (8)
2. Goalkeeping brothers who swapped clubs (QPR and Sheffield Wednesday) with each other in 1967 (9)
3. 1ac was followed in Portugal's goal by his namesake --- Pereira who flopped in the 1966 World Cup finals (4)
4. One of the supporters just behind the goal! (9)
6. Grimsby Town's nickname (8)
9. The international half of 2dn (3)
11. Forsyth, for example (4)



1980/81 series
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Answers on Page 22.



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OUR VISITORS



ROCHDALE ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB - 1980/1981 (Left to right) **Back Row:** Eric Probert, E. Senior, Mark Hilditch, Peter Burke. **Centre Row:** Bobby Hoy, Nigel O'Loughlin, Jimmy Seal, Dennis W. Alan Weir, Brian Taylor, Peter Madden (Manager). **Front Row:** Ted Oliver, David Esser, Barry Wellman, Eugene Martinez. **On Ground:** Darren Lambert, Nick Stanley.

THIS afternoon we are delighted to welcome to Springfield Park the directors, management, staff and players of the Rochdale Football Club. Our near neighbours have enjoyed a revival of fortune under manager Peter Madden this season, and are sure to provide us with stern opposition.

At the end of last season, when many were predicting that League Football would not survive at Spotland, their strong hearted directors and supporters buckled down to the task of reviving the fortunes of a club which has always had a good name for hospitality and endeavour, whatever the strains imposed by outside economic forces and all the cruel twists of fate which seem to be visited upon clubs in the lower reaches of the Football League. The spirit of comradeship and dedicated hard work is often quoted as the hallmark of two of Rochdale's most famous personalities — the late Gracie Fields and that formidable M.P. Cyril

Smith — similar virtues have been displayed over the years by many unsung heroes of the Rochdale Football Club. This year, the character which has been built into the club over many years has turned a desperate situation into one of hope and ambition for the future.

After having things almost all our own way in our first two seasons in League Football, we were comprehensively beaten at Spotland last October, and, while our own players will be anxious to erase the memory of that disastrous afternoon, the Rochdale team will be equally keen to show that our most recent encounter was no flash in the pan. Certainly, whatever their fortunes in the latter part of the season, our visitors have already done enough to suggest that they will have no re-election worries this time.

We look forward to a competitive game played in a sporting manner by two clubs which are proud of their Lancastrian heritage.

PREVIOUS LEAGUE

Season 1978/1979

13th Sept. 1978 Wigan A

H.T. Sc

Scorers:

Corrigan

Rochdale

19th Mar. 1979 Rochdale

H.T. Sc

Scorers:

Wigan A

Season 1979/1980

24th Oct. 1979 Wigan A

H.T. Sc

Scorers:

Rochdale

6th Nov. 1979 Rochdale

H.T. Sc

Scorers:

Wigan A

Houghton

Season 1980/1981

4th Oct. 1980 Rochdale

H.T. Sc

Scorers:

Hilditch

Wigan A

ROCHDALE A.F.C.

Ground: Spotland, Rochdale
Year Formed: 1907
Football League Record:
1921 Elected to Third Division (North)
1921-1959 Member of Third Division
1959-1969 Member of Fourth Division
1969-1974 Member of Third Division
1974-1981 Member of Fourth Division



Eric Snookes, Ian Wann, Eddie Cliff, Alan Jones,

RESULTS

Ath. 3 Rochdale 0
 ore 1-0 Att. 5,746
 Wigan Ath. Wright,
 n, Hinnigan.
 e: —
 e: 0 Wigan Ath. 2
 ore 0-1 Att. 3,621
 Rochdale —
 Ath. Purdie, Moore
 Ath. 1 Rochdale 1
 ore 0-1 Att. 5,086
 Wigan Ath. A. Quinn
 e: Jones
 e 0 Wigan Ath. 2
 ore 0-1 Att. 2,936
 Rochdale —
 Ath. A. Quinn,
 n.
 e 3 Wigan Ath. 0
 ore 1-0 Att. 3,479
 Rochdale: Wann (2),
 Ath. —

PEN PICTURES

DAVID ESSER — 23 year old striker, born at Bowden. Everton was his only previous club prior to signing for Rochdale in July 1977.

MARK HILDITCH — 20 years old striker, born in Manchester. Signed from local football. Very promising young player.

TED OLIVER — Midfield player from Manchester. Signed professional in June 1979, having been with the club for his two years apprenticeship.

NIGEL O'LOUGHLIN — 26 years old midfield player, born at Denbigh. Former



Welsh schoolboy international signed from Shrewsbury Town in 1976.

JIMMY SEAL — Signed in November last year from Darlington. He started his League career with Wolves, had a spell on loan with Walsall, went to York City for whom he played in over 150 League matches and joined Darlington in November 1976.

ERIC SNOOKES — 25 years old left back player from Birmingham. Signed for Rochdale in July 1978.

BRIAN TAYLOR — Spent six years as a professional, with Middlesbrough before being transferred to Doncaster Rovers in December 1975. Three years later he moved to his present club.

DENNIS WANN — Cost Rochdale £8,000 when signed from Darlington last June 1979. Made his League debut with his home town club, Blackpool, and was



transferred to York City in 1976 after having had loan spells with Chesterfield and Hartlepool.

ALAN WEIR — 22 years old mid-field player from South Shields. Record signing from Sunderland in June 1979, £20,000. He was a former England Youth captain who made his League debut at Bolton in March 1978.

EDDIE CLIFF — Born in Liverpool. Signed in September last year. Previous clubs — Notts. County, Burnley and then moved on to Tranmere Rovers. Cliff plays mid-field and full back.

EUGENE MARTINEZ — 23 years old striker signed from Bradford City at the beginning of the season 1980.

ALAN JONES — Previously with Lincoln, Bradford City, played in America last season. Mid-field player. Who signed for Rochdale at the beginning of this season.

GRAEME CRAWFORD — This Scottish born goalkeeper who has seen service with several Football League clubs recently signed for Rochdale, after a loan period from York City. An important member of the side.

PETER BURKE — Signed at the beginning of the season from Halifax Town, this strong, experienced central defender has played his part in the Rochdale revival. Previously with Barnsley.

BARRY WELLINGS — Currently Rochdale's leading goal-scorer, this Liverpool born player joined the Dale from York City at the beginning of the season.

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Home fixtures in capitals.
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.
† Player substituted.

2 Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.
* In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	F	A	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug. 9	CREWE ALEXANDRA F.L. Cup 1 1st Leg	2-1	5,512		Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore†	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	Tierney	A. Quinn
Aug. 13	Crewe Alexandra F.L. Cup 1 2nd Leg AET	2-2	4,063		Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore†	Methven	David	A. Quinn	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	Tierney	McMullan
Aug. 16	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	0-3	5,332		Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore†	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	A. Quinn	McMullan
Aug. 23	Lincoln City	0-2	3,939		Brown	Curtis	Fretwell	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	Whittle	McMullan
Aug. 27	Preston N.E. F.L. Cup 2 1st Leg.	0-1	8,028		Brown	Curtis	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	A. Quinn	A. Quinn
Aug. 30	ALDERSHOT	1-0	4,300		Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Sep. 3	PRESTON N.E. F.L. CUP 2 2nd Leg	1-2	9,692		Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Sep. 6	PORT VALE	1-3†	4,666		Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Sep. 13	Darlington	1-0	2,321		Brown	Fretwell	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Sep. 16	Halifax Town	1-0	2,052		Brown	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Sep. 20	BURY	2-1	6,021		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Sep. 27	Mansfield Town	1-3	3,402		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Oct. 1	HALIFAX TOWN	4-1	4,247		Ward	Curtis	Kettle†	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Oct. 4	ROCHDALE	0-3	3,479		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Oct. 8	DONCASTER ROVERS	3-0	3,608		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Oct. 11	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	1-1	5,320		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Oct. 18	Torquay United	0-2	2,013		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Oct. 20	Southern United	0-1	5,643		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Oct. 25	TRANMERE ROVERS	1-1	5,421		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Oct. 29	YORK CITY	1-0	3,668		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Nov. 1	A.F.C. Bournemouth	0-3	2,983		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Nov. 4	Doncaster Rovers	1-1	3,625		Ward	Curtis	Kettle	Gore	Methven	David	McMullan	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Nov. 8	BRADFORD CITY	0-1	5,155		Ward	Curtis	Fretwell	Tierney	Methven	Cribley	Glenn	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Nov. 12	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	3-0	3,376		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Glenn	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Nov. 15	Hartlepool United	1-3	5,020		Brown	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Glenn	Wright	Houghton	Hutchinson	McMullan	Glenn
Nov. 22	CHESTERFIELD F.A. CUP 1	2-2	8,682		Brown	Fretwell	McAdam	Hutchinson	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Nov. 25	Chesterfield F.A. Cup 1 Replay	0-2	8,372		Brown	Fretwell	McAdam	Hutchinson	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Nov. 29	Herford United	1-1	2,328		Brown	Curtis	Fretwell	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Dec. 6	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	1-1	3,790		Brown	Curtis	Fretwell	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Dec. 13	Crewe Alexandra	2-1	2,829		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Dec. 26	Crewe Alexandra	0-0	5,026		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Dec. 27	Stockport County	1-0	3,062		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Jan. 3	SOUTHEM UNITED	0-1	5,267		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Jan. 10	York City	1-2	2,028		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Jan. 24	Aldershot	1-0	2,932		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Jan. 31	LINCOLN CITY	0-2	5,108		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Feb. 3	Northampton Town	1-1	1,708		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Feb. 7	DARLINGTON	3-1	3,626		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Feb. 11	HEREFORD UNITED	1-0	3,370		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Feb. 14	Port Vale	0-3	3,214		Ward	Fretwell	McAdam	G. Urquhart	Methven	Cribley	Houghton†	Wright	W. Urquhart	M. Quinn	Corrigan	A. Quinn
Feb. 21	MANSFIELD TOWN	2-0	4,032		Ward	Curtis	McAdam	Cribley	Methven	Fretwell	Wignall	A. Quinn	Houghton	W. Urquhart	W. Urquhart	W. Urquhart
Feb. 28	Bury	0-0	4,700		Ward	Curtis	McAdam	Cribley	Methven	Fretwell	Wignall	A. Quinn	Houghton	W. Urquhart	W. Urquhart	W. Urquhart
Mar. 7	ROCHDALE															
Mar. 13	Peterborough United															
Mar. 21	TORQUAY UNITED															
Mar. 29	Tranmere Rovers															
Mar. 31	Wimbleton															
Apr. 4	A.F.C. Bournemouth															
Apr. 11	Bradford City															
Apr. 18	STOCKPORT COUNTY															
Apr. 25	WIMBLETON															
May 2	Scunthorpe United															

The kick-off at Tranmere on Sunday, 29th March, will be 2.30 pm
The kick-off at Peterborough and Wimbledon, will be 7.30 pm
Bradford City have not been given Football League permission to
play their game against Wigan Athletic on Sunday.

PLAYER

James David Oliver

(Striker)

Birthplace: Fearn, Ross, Scotland

Place of Residence: Pemberton,

Wigan

Date of Birth: 13th January, 1958

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 13st. 3lbs.

Previous Professional Clubs: Brora

Rangers, Dundee United, Ross

County, Fraserburgh & Montrose.

Advice to Youngsters: Work hard at your ball control, and try to make every attempt at goal count.

"Big Jim" has had few opportunities to show his true worth since coming down from North of the Border. However, Fred Eyre's recent experiment with this strong player in a defensive role has been an interesting development.



Photo by courtesy of The Wigan Reporter

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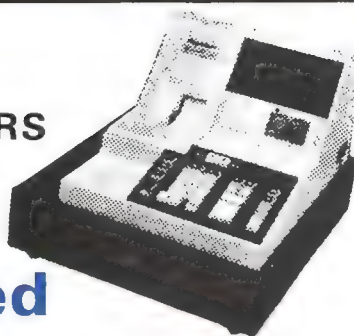
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WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

FROM the bar staff and members of the committee, a very good afternoon to our many members and friends, and a warm welcome also to visiting supporters from Rochdale.

On Monday of this week the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Supporters Club took place, to elect a new committee. After a rather short meeting, the following members were elected — Chris Coffey, John Prior, Jimmy Hoy and Ken Ward, along with Mel Lowe (Secretary). Fred Clemson and myself (the Directors' nominees) forming the General Committee.

We have several ideas to help the finances of the club, one being the formation of a "300 Club", to be launched next week. Anyone interested can contact me or any other member of the committee for details.

I would like to thank our director, Mr. Charlton, who, after the meeting had ended, circulated with the members for an informal chat about the running of the club.

Commencing Wednesday, 11th March, 1981, our Stewardess Nellie, is starting an "Over 60's Club", to operate between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend — members or not.

In our last programme I commented about the unveiling of a plaque in memory of Peter Woods.

This ceremony will now take place tonight (Saturday), having been postponed from last week.

Our programme of entertainment for this weekend is as follows:- Saturday - A very good female vocalist — ANGIE. Sunday — Local talent in the form of singer ALAN LEWIS.

We need your support, so why not call in for a pint after the match.

Stuart Cooper
Chairman

**SUPPORTERS
CLUB NEWS**



FOURTH Division clubs are really going to town on Sunday soccer. So much that, when Rochdale pack their boots after today's game at Springfield Park, they will barely have time to clean off the dirt before they are in action again — tomorrow. "Dale" have agreed to tackle Bradford City at Valley Parade, in a move which will ease City's cash-flow crisis. Last week's attempt to play on Sunday was wiped out by the weather. Meanwhile, Darlington, the pioneers of Sunday soccer in the Fourth Division, almost trebled their usual gate for the visit of Mansfield Town a couple of weeks back.

Halifax Town are bidding to get the crowds flocking back to the Shay in a very unusual way, — by inviting school children to their mid-week games which have an afternoon kick-off. The club switched a recent game from an evening kick-off and offered free admission to local children who were on half-term holiday. They also plan to distribut 1,000 complimentaries for a forthcoming League game.

York City, looking to the future, have signed two youngsters as full time professionals — John Bentham and Joe Mulhall have recently put pen to paper. Still in Yorkshire, Bradford City have currently got six players on their transfer list including fifteen-goal leading scorer Bobby Campbell and goalkeeper Steve Smith. Moving on, after a short period with Crewe Alexandra, former Manchester United star Jimmy Greenhoff has left Gresty Road in time to join American League side Toronto Blizzard.

Southend United, who have conceded just three goals

at home in league games this term, dropped only their second point of the season at Roots Hall when Doncaster held them to a goalless draw. Meanwhile, Peterborough United's F.A. Cup exploits seem to have cost them dearly. Since they were ousted by Manchester City they have fallen to two South coast sides- Torquay United, and, even more convincingly, at A.F.C. Bournemouth last weekend.

FOURTH DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE AS AT 5th MARCH, 1981

	HOME					AWAY					Pts.
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
Southend United	36	16	2	0	36	3	8	3	7	25	21 53
Lincoln City	34	11	6	1	38	10	9	4	3	19	9 50
Doncaster Rovers	35	11	3	4	28	17	6	5	6	17	23 42
Mansfield Town	34	12	2	2	29	7	6	3	9	18	23 41
Bournemouth	36	9	5	4	25	14	6	3	9	12	21 38
Hartlepool United	35	10	3	5	31	19	5	5	7	19	30 38
Aldershot	35	10	7	1	20	4	4	3	10	11	26 38
Wimbledon	33	10	3	3	31	11	5	4	8	15	21 37
Peterborough Utd.	34	8	5	4	29	18	5	6	6	24	25 37
Torquay United	35	11	1	5	31	18	5	3	10	16	30 36
Wigan Athletic	36	10	4	4	24	13	4	4	10	12	29 36
Bradford City	34	7	8	2	23	15	4	5	8	17	29 35
Rochdale	34	9	5	4	28	19	2	7	7	20	31 34
Darlington	33	7	4	4	28	18	6	3	9	18	27 33
Northampton Town	34	10	2	5	34	19	3	5	9	15	35 33
Crewe Alexandra	36	7	6	6	22	19	3	6	8	17	30 32
Scunthorpe Utd.	36	5	10	3	28	23	2	7	9	13	25 31
Bury	34	7	5	4	23	14	4	2	12	22	34 29
Tranmere Rovers	33	10	3	3	30	13	1	4	12	12	34 29
Stockport County	36	6	5	7	22	22	5	2	11	12	25 29
York City	33	8	2	6	26	14	1	6	10	9	31 26
Port Vale	34	7	5	5	30	20	1	4	12	13	42 25
Halifax Town	35	5	3	9	22	27	1	8	9	13	28 23
Hereford United	33	6	6	6	24	17	1	3	11	5	33 23



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SCENE & HEARD

THE recent announcement by Scunthorpe United that the club did not intend to operate a reserve side in Season 1981/1982, coming so soon after the warning from a prominent Football League official about the need for those within the game to show common sense when looking for wage increases, is the first indication of the thinking which will determine financial planning at most clubs during the close season.

There can be little doubt that big and small alike are feeling the pinch as the economic recession bites even deeper, and, almost daily, one hears of one club or another facing cash flow problems and games being organised to assist struggling clubs at all levels. If the mighty Manchester United and Liverpool are forced into measures to safeguard their financial futures, then, as one progresses down the soccer scale, life must be very hard indeed. For too long clubs have lived beyond their means, excusing their profligacy on the grounds of attracting better quality players and providing first class entertainment. Unfortunately, those who do not frequent the terraces as a matter of habit have not been attracted to the game, while even the converted have become a little disillusioned.

Freedom of contract has undoubtedly placed a strain on the resources of the country's top clubs, but at the end of the season that hard-won right may cause many players presently just missing out on regular first team places to find themselves surplus to requirements, as clubs look to trim their operating costs. For the struggling club, it might become temporarily expedient to sacrifice a little of the "strength in depth", and to give youthful enthusiasm a chance.

Whatever the decisions made in the board-rooms of Football League clubs in April and May, those in the game cannot expect the bankers to finance their operations indefinitely without hope of a good return. Supporters must realise that there has to be a limit to the size of the guarantees which directors can be expected to give to the bankers, in order to keep their clubs in operation, without jeopardising personal and family interests. We believe that the answer to all the game's problems can be solved by people within the game, but not unless they heed the oft-quoted maxim for business success by that noted Dickensian character, Mr. Micawber.

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LATICS AWAY

**FRIDAY,
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Football League Division Four

**PETERBOROUGH
UNITED**

- V -

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The Chairman's Column

EVENTS of the past ten days have been hectic to say the least. Matters speeded up rapidly when Brian Clough gave me permission to talk to Larry Lloyd about the possibility of his joining our Club in a managerial capacity. The Board of Directors feel that he will be the organiser we have been lacking out on the field. We have no doubts at all that he will do an excellent job for the club and will have no difficulty in picking up managerial expertise as he goes along.

While my business acumen teaches me to cut, cut, cut at the present time, we have again pushed the boat out to try to give the public what they want — a personality who can be easily identified with success. My former Financial Director, Mr. Graham Gorner, even before I took the chair, in his budget for the current financial year forecast a loss in the region of £150,000. We are bang on target for that loss, but do take note that, this year, we have had no money-spinning Cup games, no Joe Hinnigans to sell, and gates have taken a dramatic drop. The message is obvious that we should be pruning and not going out on a limb. All the Board of Directors ask in return is that the public backs us up to the full and helps us to progress to better times and gain promotion at the earliest possible opportunity.

We have all been highly delighted with the emergency operation carried out by Fred Eyre and Dave Brooks in lifting the team, and there has been far more effort evident of late. We can not expect to win every game, but it must not be for the want of trying.

All the luck in the world to Larry Lloyd. He knows as well as I do that you certainly need the lucky breaks in Soccer.

Enjoy today's game.

Freddie Pinc

Chairman.

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Colin Methven

Larry Lloyd

Mark Wignall

Tony Quinn

Mike Quinn

Peter Houghton

Jeff Wright

Dave Fretwell

Rochdale

(Green/Red)

1 Graeme Crawford

2 Alan Jones

3 Alan Weir

4 Dave Esser

5 Peter Burke

6 Brian Taylor

7 Dennis Wann

8 Nigel O'Loughlin

9 Mark Hilditch

10 Barry Wellings

11 Eugene Martinz

12 Jimmy Seal

OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

MR. T. FARLEY
(Newton Aycliffe)

After playing junior football took up refereeing. Has progressed via the North Regional and Northern Leagues to the Football League full list. Lined the F.A. Charity Shield at Wembley in 1975, a Football League Cup Semi-Final in 1970, also Fairs Cup and Anglo-Italian Tournament ties and Scotland v Peru and Scotland v Argentina Internationals. Married, with two sons, he is an Accountancy Assistant and very keen on playing squash. Is Secretary of the Bishop Auckland Referees' Association and Sports Editor of Aycliffe Community Radio.

Linesmen:

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Mr. D. Capey
(Stoke-on-Trent)

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Mr. P. Green
(Stafford)

HERE NEXT

Saturday, 21st March, 1981.

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

**WIGAN ATHLETIC -v-
TORQUAY UNITED**

Football League Division Four